

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 IO-10 INRE-00 TRSE-00 AID-05 SY-04 /067 W

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O 281215Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9559

INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SAIGON PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 3719

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, CB

SUBJ: FEBRUARY 28, THE 59TH DAY OF THE OFFENSIVE

REF: PHNOM PENH 3635

1. SUMMARY. FANK'S POSITION ON THE EAST BANK OF THE MEKONG DETERIORATED WITH THE LOSS OF PREK LUONG. THE 23RD BRIGADE FELL BACK FROM TUOL LEAP NORTH OF POCHENTONG AIRPORT BUT, REINFORCED WITH 1ST DIVISION ELEMENTS, HAS REGAINED MOST OF THE LOST GROUND. PRESSURE IS STILL HIGH AGAINST THE THIRD DIVISION SOUTHWEST OF THE CAPITAL. THE DIVISION COMMANDER IS RECOVERING FROM A BULLET WOUND HE SUFFERED TODAY. TWENTY-ONE ROCKETS HIT IN THE POCHENTONG AREA AND THREE LANDED IN PHNOM PENH. END SUMMARY.

2. THE KC CONTINUED TO SCORE GAINS ON THE EAST BANK OF THE MEKONG ACROSS FROM PHNOM PENH. THEY TOOK PREK LUONG INFLECTING AS YET UNKNOWN LOSSES ON FANK. THE NAVY REPORTS EVACUATING 300 TROOPS FROM THE POST. ELEMENTS OF THE PARATROOP BRIGADE ARE FIGHTING TO RETAKE THE KEY POST OF TACHOU SOUTH OF PREK LUONG WHICH WAS LOST FEB. 26. ON THE WEST BANK OF THE MEKONG
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NORTHEAST OF PHNOM PENH, THE TERRITORIAL FORCES BATTALION

DEFENDING BRIDGE NO. 9 IS UNDER HEAVY PRESSURE. KC FIRE HAS KEPT THE NAVY FROM RESUPPLYING THE GARRISON, WHICH HAS RECEIVED SOME AIRDROPPED AMMO. THE NAVY PLANS TO TRY AGAIN TONIGHT.

3. KC ATTACKS FORCED 23RD BRIGADE TROOPS OUT OF THEIR POSITIONS NEAR TUOL LEAP. FANK FELL BACK ABOUT THREE KM BUT RETOOK MOST OF THE GROUND WITH THE HELP OF 1ST DIVISION TROOPS WHO HAVE BEEN NEAR THE AREA FOR SEVERAL DAYS AS A RESERVE. COMMENT: THE KC DID NOT EXPLOIT THEIR EARLY SUCCEFS AND W73 0?RLPS IN LESS STRENGTH THAN FANK THOUGHT.

4. SOUTHWEST OF PHNOM PENH, THE KC STILL HAVE TWO THIRD DIVISION POSTS ENCIRCLED. BRIGADIER GENERAL NGUON LY KHEANG, COMMANDING GENERAL OF THE THRID, IS HOSPITALIZED AFTER BEING SHOT CLEANLY THROUGH THE SHOULDER.

5. THE TAKEO TASK FORCE MOVING DOWN ROUTE 1 REPORTS AN ENGAGEMENT WITH FEW CASUALTIES ON EITHER SIDE. PRESSURE IS STILL HEAVY IN THE 7TH DIVISION AREA OFF ROUTE 5 NORTHWEST OF PHNOM PENH. THE NEARBY 5TH BRIGADE RECEIVED A LARGE DELIVERY OF AMMUNITION FEB 28, IN RESPONSE TO NEEDS CAUSED BY THE HEAVY FIGHTING.

6. FORCES ON THE ISLAND BETWEEN NEAK LUONG AND BANAM KILLED 23 KC IN AN ENGAGEMENT FEB 27 AND ANOTHER NAVAL CONVOY MADE IT FROM PHNOM PENH TO NEAK LUONG. NEAK LUONG FORCES REPORTEDLY ABANDONED A POSITION ON THE PERIMETER TOWARDS BANAM.

7. TWENTY-ONE ROCKETS HIT IN THE AREA OF POCHENTONG AIRPORT WITH NO REPORTED CASUALITES. THREE ROUNDS LANDED IN PHNOM PENH.
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